

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 1042

DEPT MAY WISH PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR PORG OAU TO
SUBJ: TOGO AND THE OAU

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KODJO TO DISCUSS
REPORTS OF HIS CANDIDACY TO REPLACE OAU SECRETARY
GENERAL ETEKI. KODJO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT
THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF TOGOLESE RELATIONS WITH THE
OAU IN PERSPECTIVE.

2. I. THE QUESTION OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE OAU
HEADQUARTERS TO LOME:

THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE CONDITION PRECEDENT
FOR ANY DISCUSSION OF A TOGOLESE BECOMING SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE OAU WAS THE CONTINUING INTEREST ON THE
PART OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA TO PUT LOME FORWARD AS A
SUCCESSOR TO ADDIS ABABA AS THE OAU HEADQUARTERS.
HE SAID THAT HAD THE QUESTION ARISEN A YEAR AGO
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LOME WOULD HAVE BEEN NAMED AS THE NEW OAU HEAD-
QUARTERS. THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED IN A YEAR,
HOWEVER. THE MENGISTU REGIME IN ETHIOPIA IS MORE
FIRMLY IN THE SADDLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN HAS
MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS IN RECONCILING ITS
RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA. MOREOVER, THE NEXT OAU
SUMMIT IS SCHEDULED FOR KHARTOUM IN JULY AND THE

SUDANESE HAVE NO WISH TO TROUBLE THE WATERS BY HAVING THE QUESTION OF THE RELOCATION OF THE OAU HEADQUARTERS COME UP AT THE SUMMIT. KODJO SAID THAT PROBABLY ONLY SOMALIA AND TUNISIA MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN RAISING THE QUESTION OF RELOCATION, BUT NEITHER REGIME WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE CREDIBLE PRESENTATION.

3. KODJO SAID THAT CHANCES AT BEST WERE TEN PERCENT THAT THE QUESTION WOULD COME UP. HOWEVER, LIBYA, ALGERIA AND GUINEA ARE AGAINST MOVING THE HEADQUARTERS. SINCE TOGO HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO BRING SERIOUS PRESSURE ON EYADEMA TO GET HIM TO AVOID PRECIPITATING THE PROBLEM. MOREOVER, THE MODERATE REGIMES ARE ALSO LIKELY TO BE OPPOSED TO THE RELOCATION OF THE OAU HEADQUARTERS BECAUSE SUCH REGIMES WOULD HAVE NO DESIRE TO RAISE ANOTHER PROBLEM AT A TIME WHEN AFRICA HAS AS MANY PROBLEMS AS IT DOES. KODJO SAID THAT IF THE QUESTION WERE ACTUALLY POSED, HE BELIEVED TOGO WOULD HAVE A VERY STRONG CHANCE OF GETTING THE HEADQUARTERS, BUT HE DOUBTS SERIOUSLY THAT THE QUESTION WILL BE RAISED AT THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT.

4. II. THE QUESTION OF KODJO'S CANDIDACY TO BECOME OAU SECRETARY GENERAL:

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THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S FIRST PRIORITY IS THE QUESTION OF RELOCATON OF THE OAU HEADQUARTERS. HE SAID THE PRESIDENT IS NOT LIKELY TO GIVE UP ON THE CAMPAIGN EVEN IF THE ISSUE IS NOT POSED AT THE KHARTOUM SUMMIT. ADDITIONALLY, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT THE PRESIDENT DID NOT WISH TO LOSE HIS SERVICES IN BEHALF OF TOGOLESE DIPLOMACY BUT, KODJO BELIEVES, IF SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACY AS OAU SECRETARY GENERAL DEVELOPS, EYADEMA WILL PROBABLY GO ALONG WITH RELEASING HIM FOR THE OAU JOB.

5. ACCORDING TO KODJO, HE BLEIVES TOGO WOULD HAVE ABOUT A 90 PERCENT CHANCE OF WINNING THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP ON THE FIRST BALLOT. HE THOUGHT THAT ALL OF THE ARAB STATES PLUS MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO (KODJO SAID THAT MOROCCO WAS COURTING TOGO THESE DAYS), THE ECOWAS COUNTRIES, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND SUCH ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES AS GHANA, KENYA, LIBERIA AND NIGERIA WOULD SUPPORT A TOGOLESE CANDIDACY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH GARBA AND LIBYAN PRESIDENT QADHAFI HAVE SPOKEN TO PRESIDENT EYADEMA ABOUT PUTTING FORWARD THE

KODJO CANDIDACY. ADDITIONALLY, PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OF IVORY COAST, PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL AND PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE OF NIGER HAVE SPOKEN TO EYADEMA ON BEHALF OF KODJO.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE CRUCIAL THING IS THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA IS BASICALLY NOT INTERESTED IN KODJO BECOMING OAU SECRETARY GENERAL IF THIS MEANS THAT IT WOULD WEAKEN TOGO'S LONG-TERM CAMPAIGN TO BECOME THE NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR THE OAU. (APPARENTLY THE PRESIDENT REASONS THAT TOGO COULD NOT HAVE BOTH THE HEADQUARTERS AND THE SECRETARY GENERALSHIP.) THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE WAS NATURALLY INTERESTED IN THE JOB BUT SINCE HIS PRESIDENT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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LESS INTERESTED HE WAS PHILOSOPHICAL ON THE MATTER. HE SAID THAT HE CERTAINLY WOULD NOT INCUR THE PRESIDENT'S WRATH BY EITHER LEADING OR LENDING HIMSELF TO A CAMPAIGN IN HIS OWN BEHALF. PALMER

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED OAU COLLECTIVE,,

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